



# **State of the Nation Study: K-12 Online Learning in Canada**

**Michael K. Barbour, Wayne State University  
and Friends...**

October 2008

**A Snapshot  
State of the Nation Study:  
K-12 Online Learning in Canada**



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in Canada**



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**CONNECTIONS**  
**ACADEMY<sup>®</sup>**

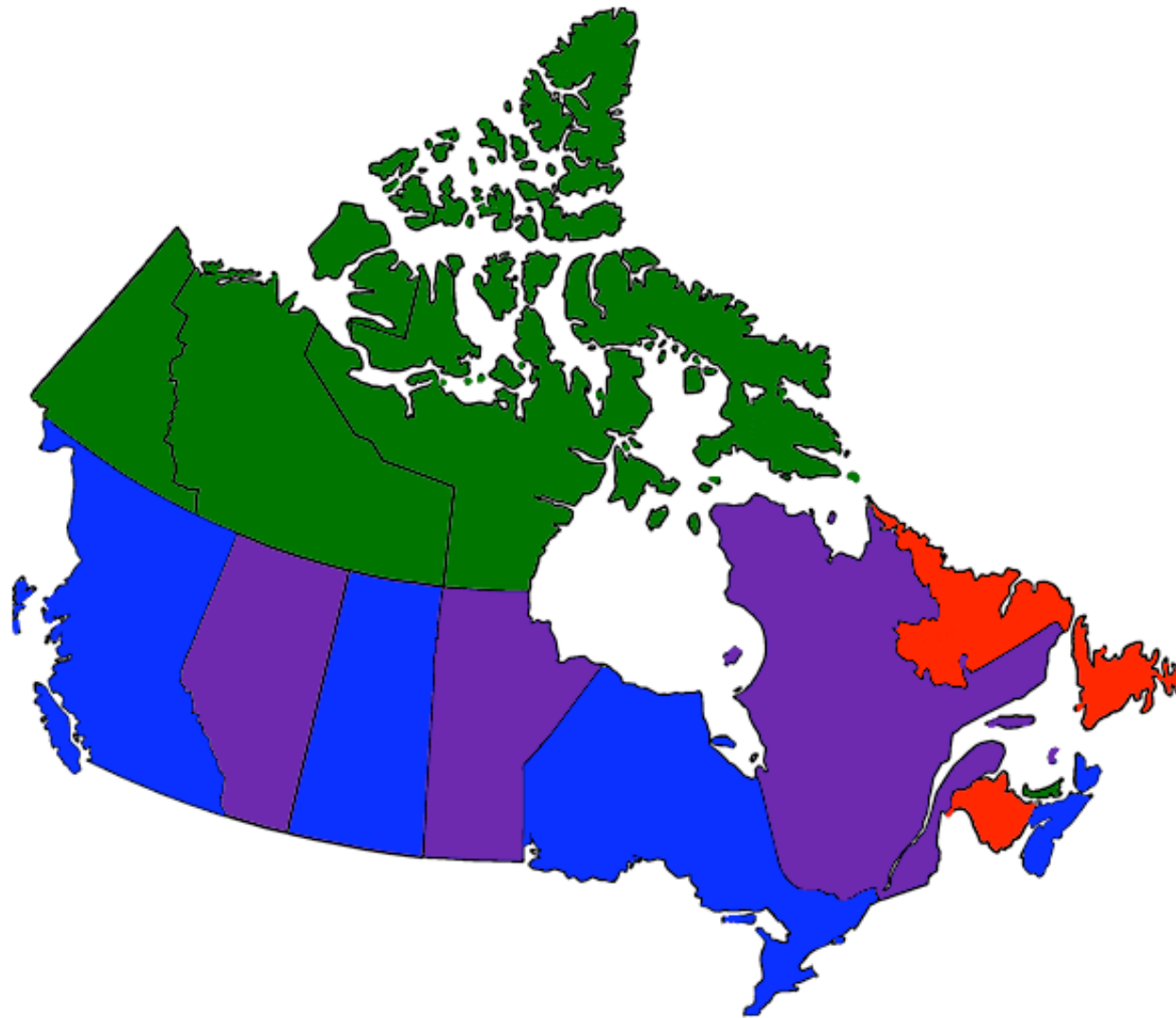
***Desire2Learn***   
*Innovative Learning Technology*



# Methodology

Province/Territory	2008	2009	2010
Newfoundland & Labrador	KS / DA	MoE / DA	DA
Nova Scotia	DA	MoE / DA	MoE
Prince Edward Island	DA	KS / DA	MoE
New Brunswick	DA	MoE / DA	MoE
Quebec	KS	KS / DA	MoE / KS
Ontario	KS / DA	KS / DA	KS / DA
Manitoba	KS	MoE / DA	MoE
Saskatchewan	KS / DA	MoE	MoE
Alberta	DA	KS / DA	KS / DA
British Columbia	MoE / DA	MoE / DA	MoE
Yukon	DA	KS / DA	MoE / DA
Northwest Territories	DA	MoE / DA	DA
Nunavut	DA	MoE	MoE

# National Overview



**Single provincial  
programme**

**Combination of  
provincial and  
district-based  
programmes**

**Primarily district-  
based  
programmes**

**Use programmes  
from other  
provinces**

Between 150,00 and 175,000 K-12 students took one or more DE courses



# Newfoundland and Labrador



- Online learning began in mid-1990s with district-based programmes
- Single province-wide programme began around 2001
- No specific policies for online learning, but provincial programme is housed within MOE
- Between 1,500 – 1,800 students annually

# Nova Scotia



- Online learning began in 2003
- Couple district-based programmes & a provincial wide pilot programme
- 11 provisions included in the agreement between the Government & teachers union
- Between 2,500-2,800 students annually

# Prince Edward Island



- Small video conferencing programme & uses online learning programme in New Brunswick
- MOE has issued two directives since 2001 containing guidelines for the use of distance education in K-12 environment
- Approximately 40 students annually



# New Brunswick



- Online learning began in 1998
- Single province-wide programme
  - used frequently by face-to-face teachers too
- No specific policies for online learning, but provincial programme is housed within MOE
- Between 1,500-2,000 students annually in English programme & 350-700 students in French programme

# Quebec



- MOE devolved distance education
- Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec (SOFAD)
  - Approximately 45,000 enrolments
- Learn Quebec
  - Approximately 300 enrolments
- Écoles éloignées en réseau or Remote Networked Schools
  - Connects schools, but no distance education

# Ontario



- Online learning began in 1994
- Primarily district-based programmes using the provincial CMS and course content
  - Cooperation between boards through OeLC (OCeLC too)
  - Approximately 10,000 students
- *Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l'Ontario*
  - Approximately 1,300 students
- Three private schools

# Manitoba



- Province offers three forms
  - MOE manages correspondence and audio teleconference systems
    - 3400 enrolments for correspondence, approximately 530 for teleconference
  - districts manage their own web-based programme using MOE content
    - approximately 4000 students
- All districts appear to participate in web-based option to some extent

# Saskatchewan



- Province devolved responsibility to districts
- Most districts have their own capacity
- Sixteen districts provided space to external students through the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Course Repository
- Approximately 3,500 students

# Alberta



- Online learning began in 1994-95
- Numerous district-based, several private, and a province-wide programme
- MOE has no specific online learning policies (simply advises school-based programs to consider how they will treat online learning)
- Release *Inspiring Action on Education* in June
- Between 35,000 and 40,000 students



# British Columbia



- First online learning programmes (1993)
- Fifty-three public & 12 private programmes
- Most extensive distributed learning regulations
  - Funding follows student
- Over 71,000 students enrolled

# Yukon



- Several MOE programmes and also utilizes programmes from British Columbia & Alberta
- Primarily regulated by Ministry or through inter-provincial agreements
- Thirteen students enrolled in video conferencing programme
- Approximately 100 students enrolled British Columbia & Alberta programmes

# Northwest Territories



- Utilizes programmes from Alberta, beginning to create internal capacity
- MOE active in this provincial-territorial agreement
- Less than 200 students enrolled

# Nunavut



- Utilizes programmes from Alberta
- Trying to build internal capacity
- No additional information provided in public venues


**The Panel...**



# Your Questions and Comments







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